



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP **12¢**

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

9
FEB.

**THE MOST
ORIGINAL SUPER-
HERO OF ALL TIME!**

IN THIS GREAT ISSUE
YOU WILL MEET...

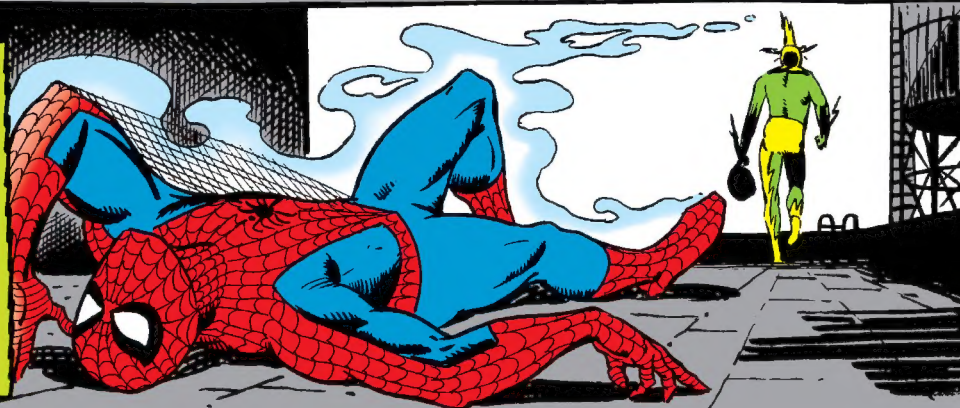
ELECTRO!

A MENACE SO
POWERFUL THAT
SPIDER-MAN'S
STRENGTH IS
USELESS AGAINST
HIM!

A
BOOK-LENGTH
COMIC COLOSSAL,
PROVING AGAIN THAT
THIS IS INDEED
THE
MARVEL
AGE OF
COMICS!

S. DiZko

A SCENE YOU
WILL NEVER
FORGET!
SEE...
**THE DEFEAT
OF
SPIDER-MAN!**



"THE MAN CALLED ELECTRO!"

WRITTEN BY:
STAN LEE
ILLUSTRATED BY:
STEVE DITKO
LETTERED BY:
ART SIMEK

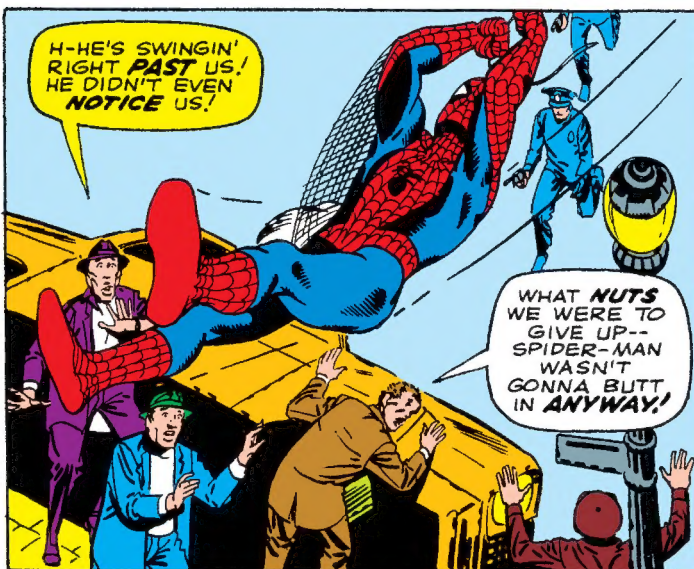
KNOW SOMETHING, LITTLE FRIEND? IF YOU'RE JUST STARTING TO READ THIS STORY, WE *ENVY* YOU! BECAUSE YOU'RE GONNA HAVE A *BALL*! THIS BOOK-LENGTH THRILLER FEATURES A REALLY FASCINATING SUPER-VILLAIN; IT'S CHOCK-FULL OF HUMAN INTEREST AND DRAMA; AND IT SHOWS SPIDER-MAN, WITH ALL HIS HUMAN PROBLEMS AND FRAILTIES, GREATER THAN YOU'VE EVER SEEN HIM BEFORE! BUT DON'T TAKE *OUR* WORD FOR IT-- AFTER ALL, *WERE* SPIDEY'S BEST BOOSTERS! SEE WHAT *YOU* THINK...

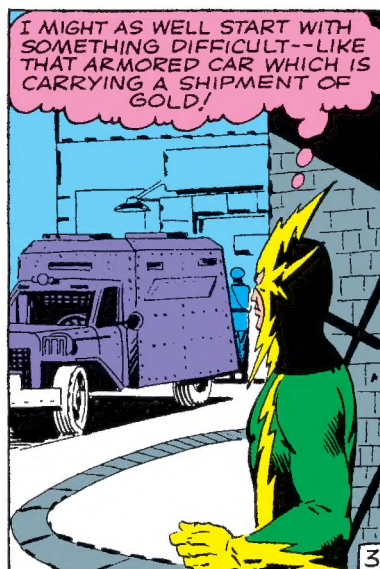
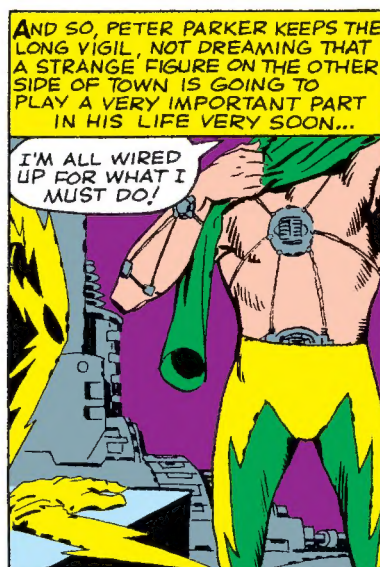
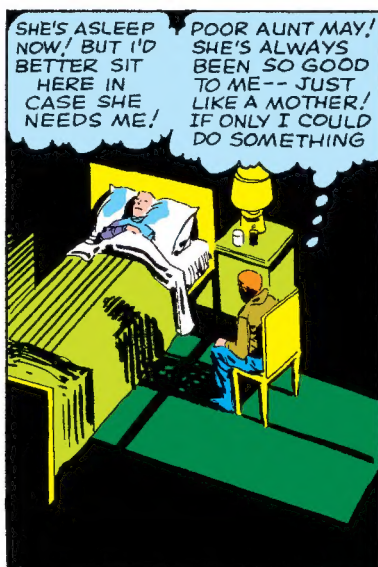
AS OUR TALE BEGINS, A STARTLED GROUP OF PEDESTRIANS IN NEW YORK SEE ONE OF THE MOST COLORFUL CHARACTERS OF ALL TIME DASH PAST THEM AT DAZZLING SPEED...

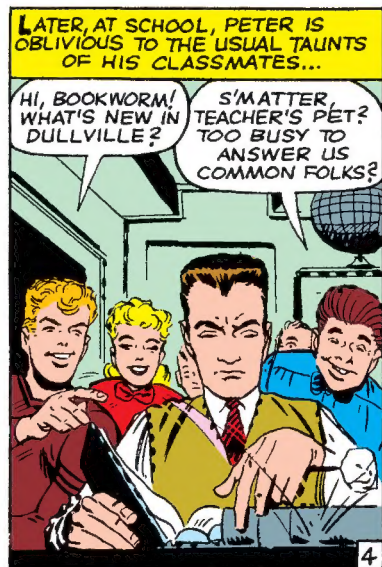
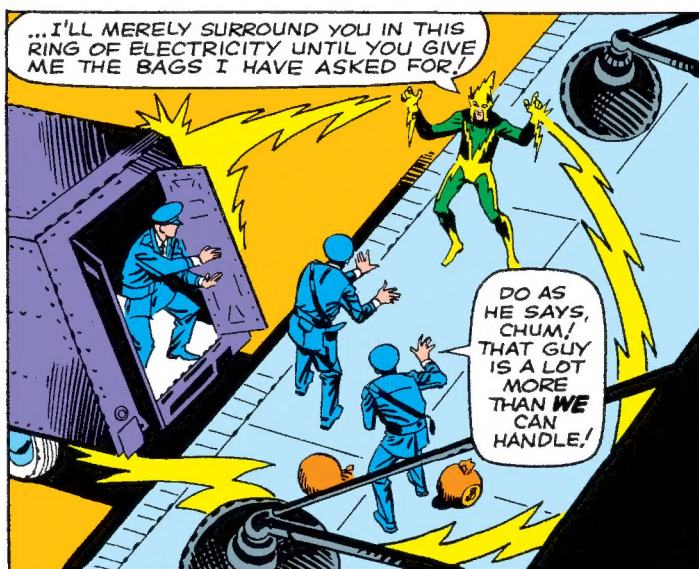
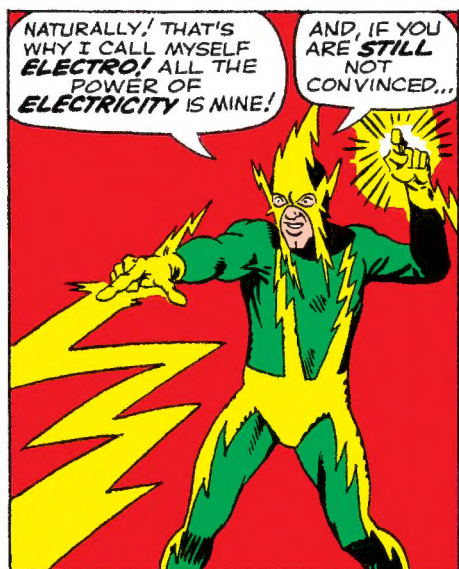
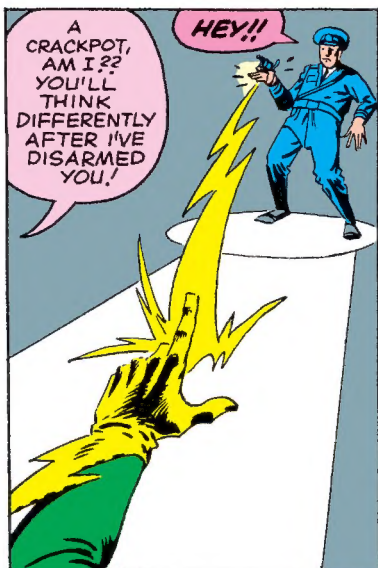
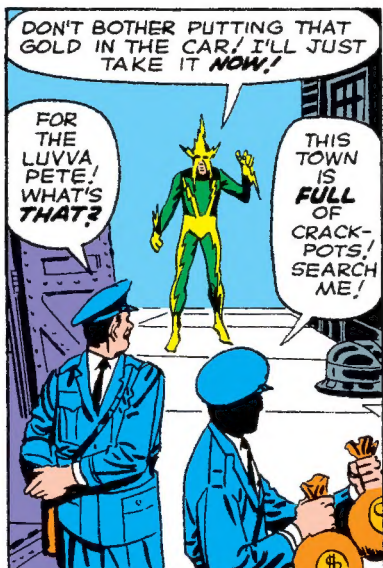
LOOK! IT'S SPIDER-MAN!!



IGNORING THE CROWDS AS IF THEY DON'T EXIST, THE AMAZING MASKED ADVENTURER HURTLES FROM ROOFTOP TO ROOFTOP UNTIL HE IS VIRTUALLY LOST FROM SIGHT!!







I DON'T KNOW--MAYBE I'VE BEEN TOO ROUGH ON PARKER! HE'S MORE OF A MAN THAN I THOUGHT! I STILL REMEMBER THAT LAST **FIGHT** WE HAD!*

HEY, PETER, WAIT UP! I WANNA **TALK** TO YOU!

*AMAZING SPIDER-MAN#8 -- THE CASE OF "THE LIVING BRAIN!" --EDITOR

WOW! DID PETER PARKER GIVE YOU THE COLD SHOULDER, FLASH OLD BOY?

YEAH! THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR STARTIN' TO SOFTEN UP! PUNY PARKER ALWAYS **WAS** A BIG **ZERO**, AND HE ALWAYS **WILL** BE!

BUT THIS IS ONE TIME WHEN PETER PARKER COULDN'T CARE LESS FOR FLASH'S OPINION! A FEW MINUTES LATER WE FIND HIM AT THE HOSPITAL...

YOUR AUNT IS ALRIGHT AT THE MOMENT, SON! WE'RE NOT QUITE READY TO OPERATE YET! WOULD YOU LIKE TO **SEE** HER?

YES, DOC-- I SURE WOULD!

HELLO, AUNT MAY! I-- OH, BETTY BRANT!!

ISN'T IT **SWEET** OF BETTY, PETER? SHE CAME TO VISIT!

WHEN I HEARD ABOUT YOUR AUNT, I CAME TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANYTHING I COULD DO! HOPE YOU **DON'T** MIND?

MIND? GOSH NO, BETTY! I APPRECIATE IT!

PETER, YOU LOOK PALE! ARE YOU **EATING** ENOUGH, DEAR?

OF **COURSE**, AUNT MAY! NOW YOU JUST WORRY ABOUT **YOUR-SELF**!

LATER, WHEN VISITING HOURS ARE OVER...

DO YOU MIND IF I DON'T SEE YOU HOME, BETTY? I, EH, HAVE SOMETHING IMPOR-TANT TO ATTEND TO!

CERTAINLY, PETER! I KNOW YOU MUST HAVE A **LOT** ON YOUR MIND, WHAT WITH YOUR AUNT'S ILLNESS AND ALL...

BUT, AFTER PETER HAS LEFT...

IT'S STRANGE--ALTHOUGH PETER SEEMS SO CALM, AND EASY-GOING, I GET THE FEELING THAT HE'S LIKE A SMOLDERING VOLCANO INSIDE, JUST WAITING TO ERUPT!

IT'S AS THOUGH HE CARRIES A DEEP SECRET WITHIN HIM--ONE WHICH NO ONE CAN EVER SHARE!

AND, BETTY BRANT IS CLOSER TO THE TRUTH THAN SHE SUSPECTS!

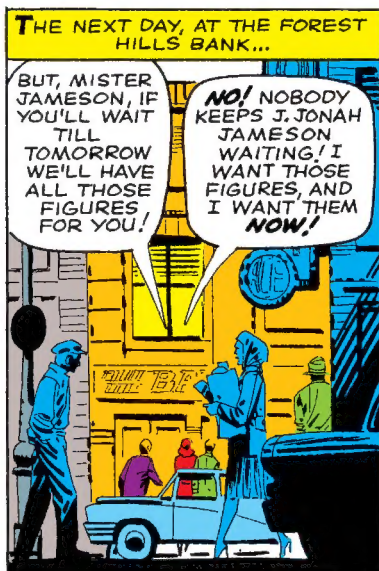
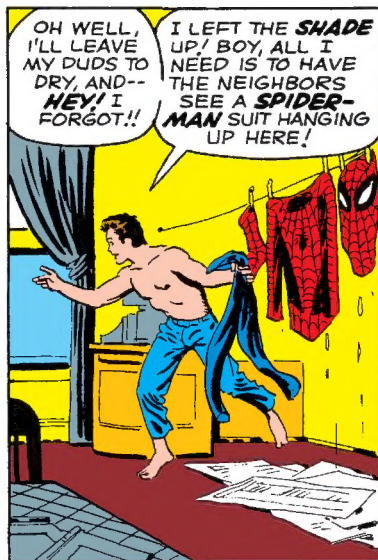
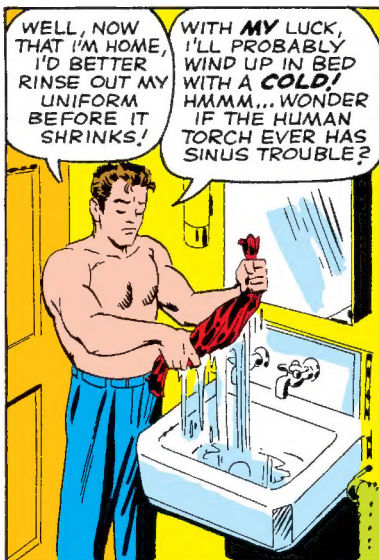
I'VE GOT TO RAISE SOME MONEY **FAST**! AUNT MAY'S OPERATION WILL COST MORE THAN WE HAVE IN THE BANK!

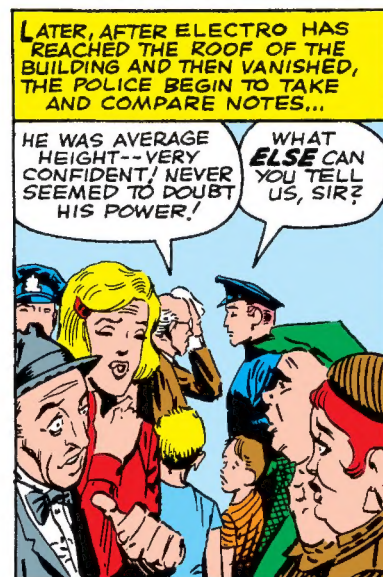
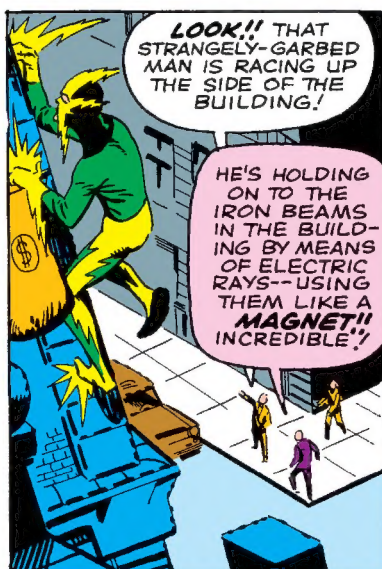
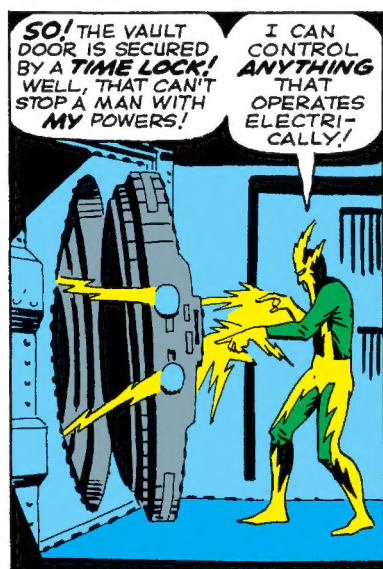
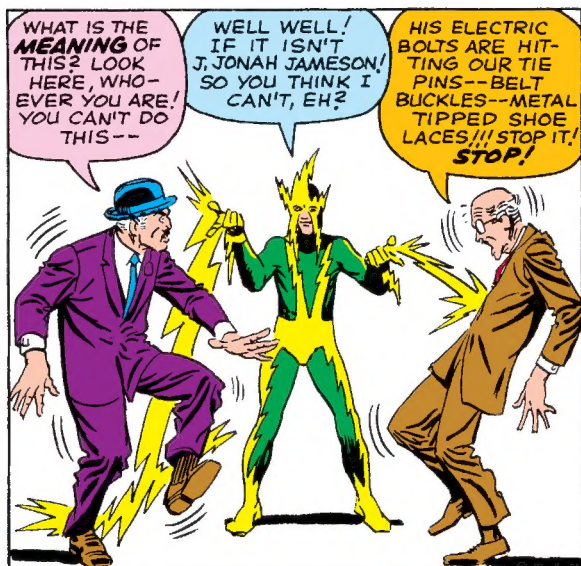
I'LL SCOUR THE CITY UNTIL I FIND SOME SORT OF CRIME THAT I CAN PHOTOGRAPH! THEN I'LL SELL THE PIX TO J. JONAH JAMESON FOR AS MUCH AS HE'LL PAY!

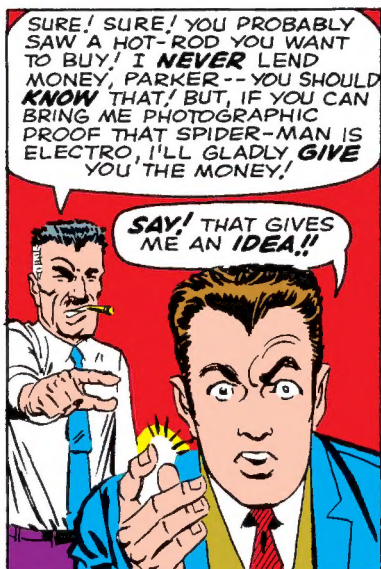
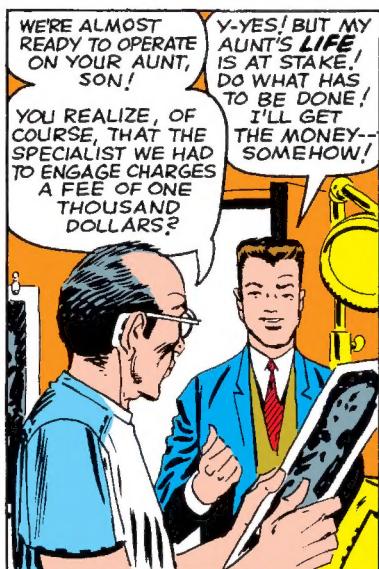
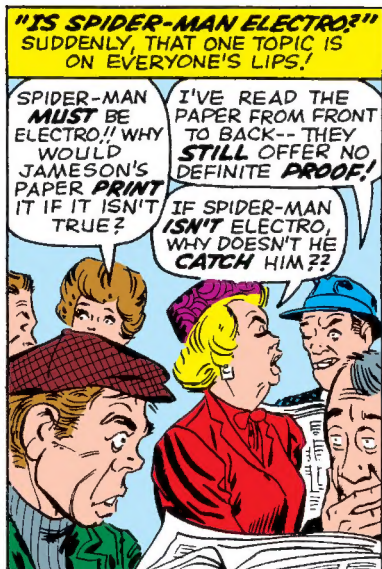
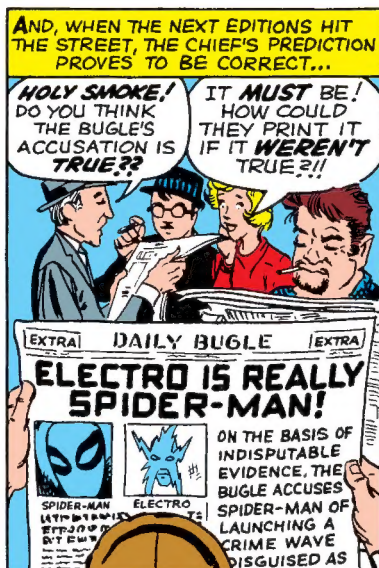
OH NO! IT'S STARTING TO **RAIN**! I'M LICKED BEFORE I START!

MY CAMERA ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH TO TAKE CLEAR PICTURES IN THE RAIN!

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AND SO THE GRIM SEARCH BEGINS...

SOMEONE ON THAT ROOF BELOW... PROWLING IN THE DARK! WHAT A STROKE OF **LUCK!**

YEAH, JUST LIKE MY USUAL LUCK-- ALL **BAD!** IT'S JUST A GUY WITH A TELESCOPE-- STAR-GAZING!

HOOR AFTER HOUR, ALL THROUGH THE LONG NIGHT, SPIDER-MAN CONTINUES TO SEARCH-- CONTINUES TO HOPE AGAINST HOPE, AS HIS CHANCES FOR SUCCESS NARROW WITH EACH TICK OF THE CLOCK!

I MUST FIND **ELECTRO!!** I **MUST!!**

THAT LIGHT-- FLASHING FROM THAT DARKENED BUILDING!! PERHAPS--??

ANOTHER FALSE ALARM! JUST SOME WORKMEN MAKING EMERGENCY REPAIRS ON A POWER LINE!

AND **STILL** THE SEARCH CONTINUES, UNTIL AT LAST...

WAIT!! WHAT'S THAT **TINGLING** I SEEM TO FEEL??

IT'S MY **SPIDER-SENSE!** IT'S A **WARNING!** HE'S SOMEWHERE **NEAR HERE!** HE **MUST** BE!

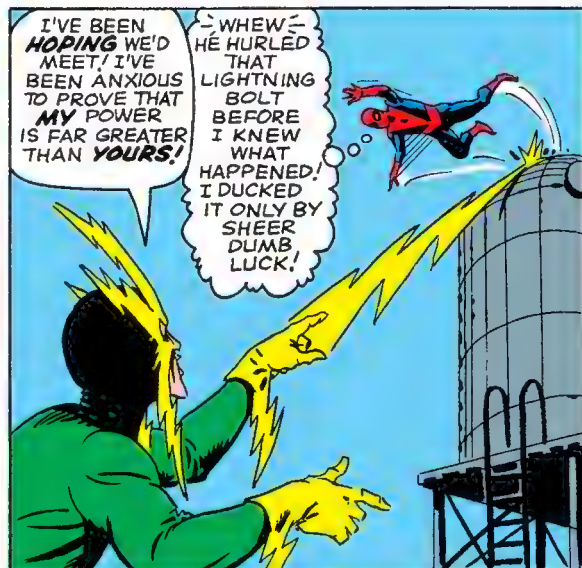
I WAS **RIGHT--** AT LAST! THERE HE IS **NOW!**

HE'S USING HIS ELECTRIC POWER LIKE A **MINE DETECTOR!** HE JUST LOCATED A HIDDEN **SAFE** IN THAT DESERTED **APARTMENT!**

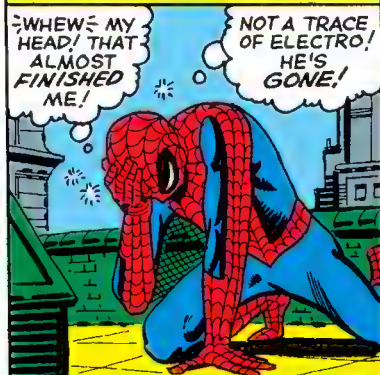
JEWELS! MONEY! NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TAKE, I WANT MORE-- MUCH MORE! AND WITH MY GREAT POWER, NOTHING CAN STOP ME FROM **GETTING IT!**

MY TROUBLES ARE OVER AT LAST!! I'LL LET HIM LEAD ME TO HIS HIDEOUT, RECOVER HIS STOLEN LOOT, CAPTURE HIM, AND GET MY REWARD FROM THE POLICE!

MIGHT AS WELL TAKE A FEW **PIX** OF HIM WHILE I'M AT IT, TOO!



BUT, IF SPIDER-MAN UNDER-ESTIMATED ELECTRO'S POWER-- ELECTRO IS GUILTY OF THE SAME MISTAKE ABOUT SPIDER-MAN! THE MASTER CRIMINAL HAS FAILED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT SPIDER-MAN'S SPIDER-INDUCED STRENGTH ENABLES HIM TO SURVIVE A SHOCK THAT CAN KILL AN ORDINARY HUMAN!



WHEW-- MY HEAD! THAT ALMOST FINISHED ME!

NOT A TRACE OF ELECTRO! HE'S GONE!

ONLY ONE WAY TO GET THAT MONEY NOW! I'LL TAKE SOME PIX OF MYSELF, AND THEN SUPER-IMPOSE THEM OVER ELECTRO'S PICTURES! IT'LL LOOK AS THOUGH I SNAPPED ELECTRO CHANGING INTO SPIDER-MAN!



THE NEXT DAY... I HATE TAKING MONEY UNDER FALSE PRE-TENSES-- BUT I'LL MAKE UP FOR IT-- SOMEHOW!



JUST WHAT I WANTED! PHOTOGRAPHIC PROOF THAT SPIDER-MAN IS ELECTRO! DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DID IT, BUT HERE'S YOUR CHECK, PARKER!

I'VE NEVER CHEATED ANYONE BEFORE! IT FEELS TERRIBLE! IF IT WEREN'T SUCH AN EMERGENCY...



IS YOUR AUNT WORSE, PETER? YOU-- YOU LOOK SO WORRIED!

NO, BETTY-- I'M NOT WORRIED--

JUST FEELING AWFULLY ASHAMED OF MYSELF!

THE NEXT EDITION OF J. JONAH JAMESON'S PAPER PLASTERS THE NEWS ALL OVER THE FRONT PAGE...



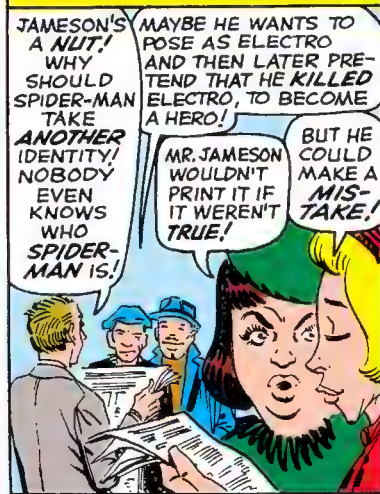
THE DAILY BUGLE EXTRA

PROOF THAT SPIDER-MAN IS ELECTRO!



THESE PHOTOS, TAKEN BY A BUGLE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER, SHOW SPIDER-MAN AND ELECTRO IN THE SAME AREA, WITHIN SECONDS OF EACH OTHER!... THE BUGLE DARES SPIDER-MAN TO DISPROVE OUR CLAIM! TEST THE STRENGTH OF YOUR SPIDER-INDUCED STRENGTH BY BEATING THE RECORD SET BY THE...
 THESE PHOTOS, TAKEN BY A BUGLE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER, SHOW SPIDER-MAN AND ELECTRO IN THE SAME AREA, WITHIN SECONDS OF EACH OTHER!... THE BUGLE DARES SPIDER-MAN TO DISPROVE OUR CLAIM! TEST THE STRENGTH OF YOUR SPIDER-INDUCED STRENGTH BY BEATING THE RECORD SET BY THE...

AND, IN THE HOURS THAT FOLLOW, THE SENSATIONAL STORY IS ON EVERYONE'S LIPS...



JAMESON'S A NUT! WHY SHOULD SPIDER-MAN TAKE ANOTHER IDENTITY! NOBODY EVEN KNOWS WHO SPIDER-MAN IS!

MAYBE HE WANTS TO POSE AS ELECTRO AND THEN LATER PRE-TEND THAT HE KILLED ELECTRO, TO BECOME A HERO!

MR. JAMESON WOULDN'T PRINT IT IF IT WEREN'T TRUE!

BUT HE COULD MAKE A MIS-TAKE!

AND, IN A SECRET HIDEOUT, IN THE HEART OF THE CITY...



HA HA! JAMESON WILL HAVE A LONG WAIT IF HE'S GONNA WAIT FOR SPIDER-MAN TO DISPROVE ANYTHING!

NOW, WITH SPIDER-MAN OUT OF THE WAY, I'LL REALLY KEEP THINGS POPPING AROUND HERE! NOBODY WILL EVEN REMEMBER SPIDER-MAN WHEN I'M FINISHED!

AND NOBODY EVEN REMOTELY SUSPECTS WHO ELECTRO REALLY IS!! NOBODY KNOWS THAT I USED TO BE AN ORDINARY ELECTRIC LINEMAN NAMED MAX DILLON!



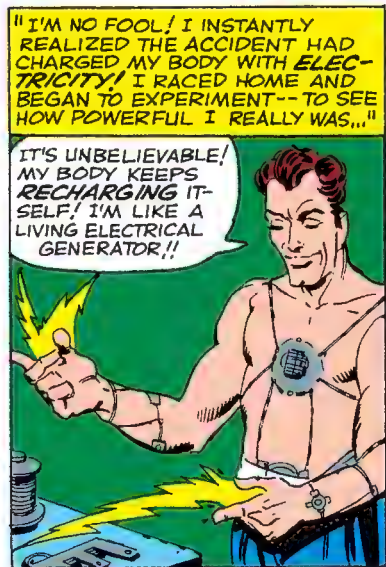
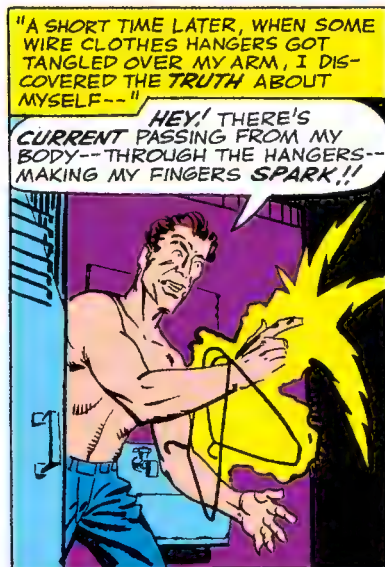
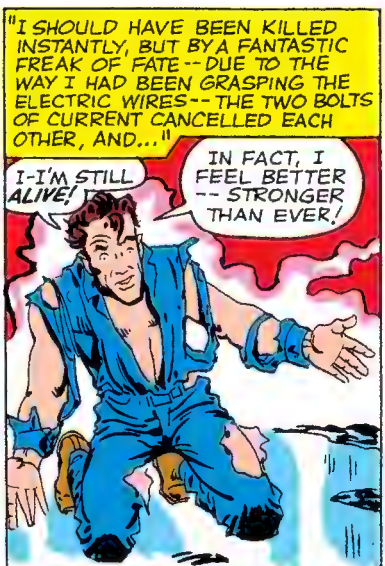
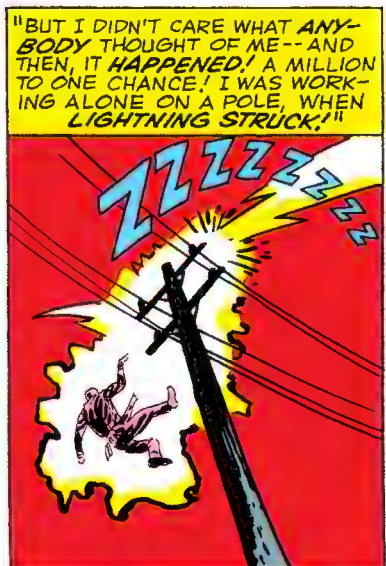
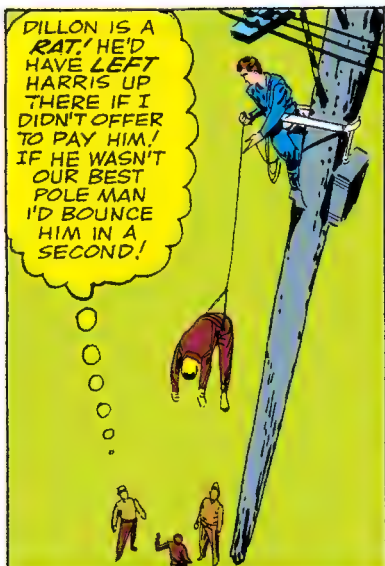
MAX, I NEED YOU! HARRIS IS IN TROUBLE ON A HIGH TENSION POLE! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP HIM DOWN!

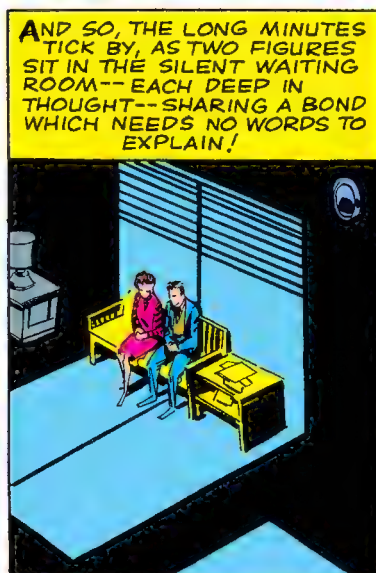
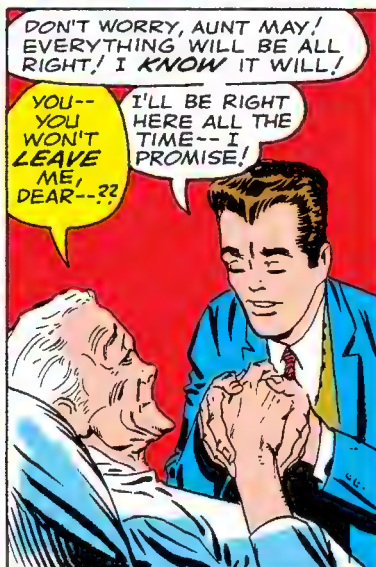
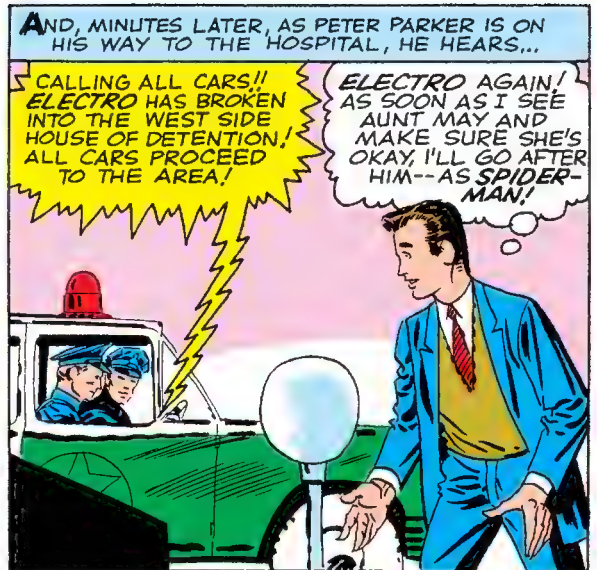
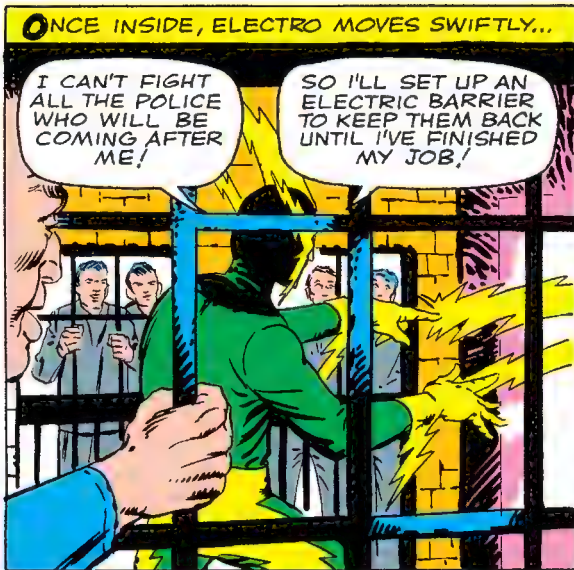
FORGET IT! I DON'T DO ANYTHING FOR NOTHING! HOW MUCH BONUS WILL YOU GIVE ME?

BUT THE MAN'S LIFE IS IN DANGER! AND YOU'RE OUR BEST POLE MAN! OKAY-- YOU WIN! WE'LL PAY A HUNDRED BUCKS!



THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! NOW DON'T GET YOUR JAWS IN AN UPROAR! I'LL BRING 'IM DOWN!





AND, WITHIN THE DETENTION HOUSE WALLS...

THIS IS OUR CHANCE! WE'RE FREE! LET'S GO!

WAIT! I OPENED THE IRON GATES FOR YOU, I GIVE THE ORDERS! YOU MUST OBEY ME!

IGNORE THAT NUT! HE MUST BE FROM THE PSYCHO WARD!

NO! HE'S ELECTRO! I HEARD ABOUT 'IM! MAYBE HE'S GOT A PLAN!

OUTSIDE THE BUILDING, THOSE ESCAPEES WHO DO TRY TO FLEE ARE QUICKLY ROUNDED UP BY THE VIGOROUS ACTION OF THE WAITING POLICE...

FUN TIME'S OVER, PAL! BACK INSIDE YOU GO!

WE SHOULD HAVE WAITED! SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO ELECTRO! OHHH!

AND, BACK AT THE HOSPITAL...

PARKER! COME IN! YOUR AUNT IS CALLING FOR YOU!

IS-- IS SHE--??

SHE'S ALL RIGHT, SON! THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS!

PETER-- PETER-- IS THAT YOU--? TAKE MY HAND, DEAR--

HERE I AM, AUNT MAY! YOU'RE GONNA BE WELL AGAIN! THE DOCTOR SAID SO!

THAT'S ENOUGH, BOY! SHE'S DOZING OFF NOW!

THE SEDATIVES WE GAVE HER WILL LET HER SLEEP TILL MORNING! THE DANGER IS OVER!

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE SOME REST, TOO!

I GUESS SO! IT'S BEEN-- QUITE A STRAIN!

BETTY, AUNT MAY IS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT! THE OPERATION WAS SUCCESSFUL!

OH, I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU, PETER!

AND NOW I'VE GOT TO GO! THEY NEED ME AT THE OFFICE! MR. JAMESON ISN'T THERE-- HE WENT TO COVER THE DETENTION HOUSE RIOT!

PETER, PLEASE DON'T GO THERE TO TAKE ANY PICTURES! IT COULD BE DANGEROUS!

BUT, BETTY-- THE DANGEROUS PIX ARE THE ONES JAMESON PAYS THE MOST FOR!

I WAS AFRAID OF THIS! YOU'RE BEGINNING TO ENJOY THE DANGER-- THE EXCITEMENT! JUST LIKE-- SOMEONE ELSE I ONCE KNEW--

I WISH I KNEW WHAT REALLY BOTHERS HER! IF ONLY SHE'D TELL ME SOME DAY!

MINUTES LATER, NO LONGER BURDENED BY WORRY OVER HIS AUNT, THE WORLD'S MOST DRAMATIC COSTUMED FIGURE STREAKS OVER THE ROOFTOPS OF NEW YORK-- HIS HEART POUNDING WITH EXCITEMENT-- HIS EVERY NERVE TINGLING WITH THE THRILL OF IMPENDING BATTLE!

AND NOW FOR--
ELECTRO!

I'LL JUST TAKE AN EXTRA MINUTE TO STOP AT THE STORE BELOW AND PICK UP A FEW THINGS-- A FEW LITTLE ITEMS WITH WHICH TO CONQUER ELECTRO!

THEY'LL WONDER FOR WEEKS WHO IT WAS THAT ENTERED THE DESERTED STORE AND LEFT SOME MONEY BEHIND!

AND, JUST A FEW MINUTES LATER...

NO SIGN OF SPIDER-MAN! THIS **PROVES** HE'S REALLY ELECTRO! I'LL PROBABLY WIN THE **PULITZER PRIZE** FOR MY SCOOP!!

THAT FOOL PARKER DOESN'T KNOW IT, BUT I'D HAVE PAID **TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS** FOR THOSE PICTURES!!

LOOK!! UP THERE --ON THE ROOF!!

HUH? UP WHERE??

OH NO!! **NO!!** IT CAN'T BE! IT CAN'T!!

THIS RUINS **EVERYTHING!** SPIDER-MAN **ISN'T** ELECTRO! ELECTRO IS STILL **INSIDE!!** I WAS **WRONG!! WRONG!!**

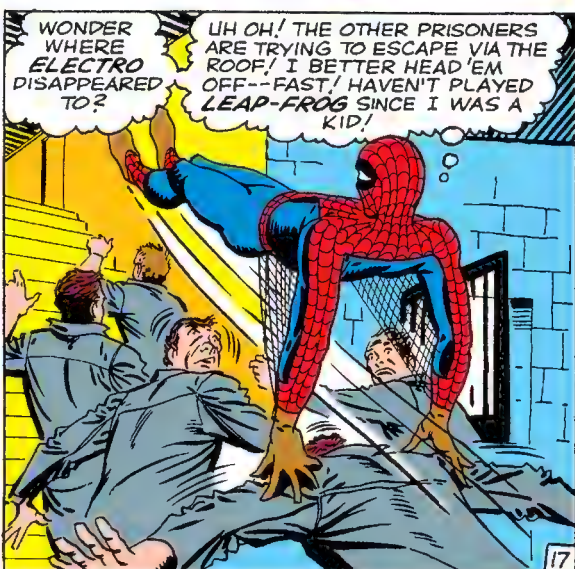
I'LL BE A **LAUGHING STOCK!** AND ALL BECAUSE OF PETER PARKER!

I HOPE ELECTRO HASN'T **FLED** YET! I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS!

BETTER PUT ON THESE **RUBBERS--** AND THE **RUBBER GLOVES** I GOT AT THE STORE, TO HELP **INSULATE** MYSELF AGAINST HIM!

AND I'LL POSITION MY **AUTOMATIC CAMERA** TO GET SOME PICTURES OF WHAT-**EVER** TAKES PLACE!

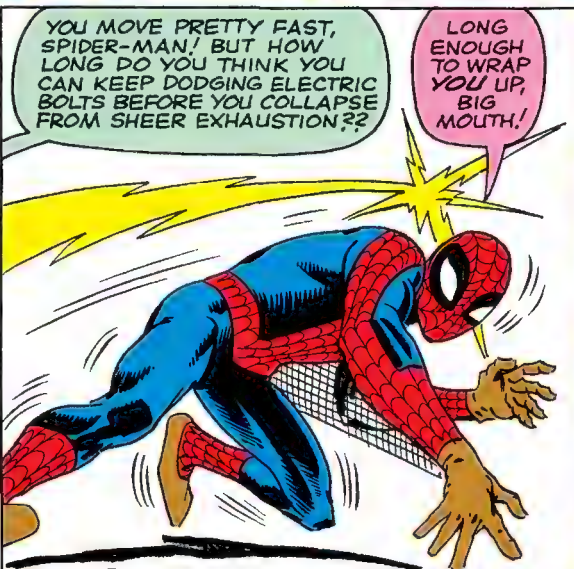
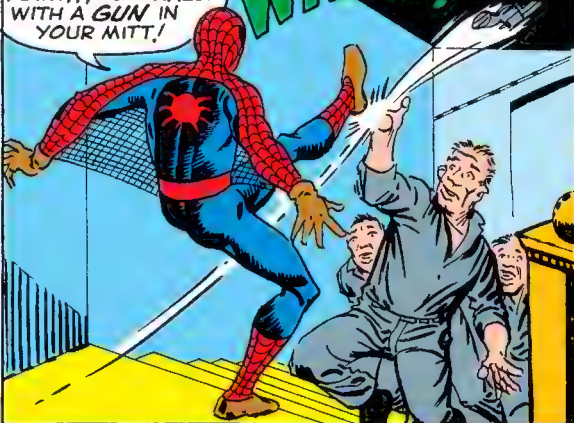


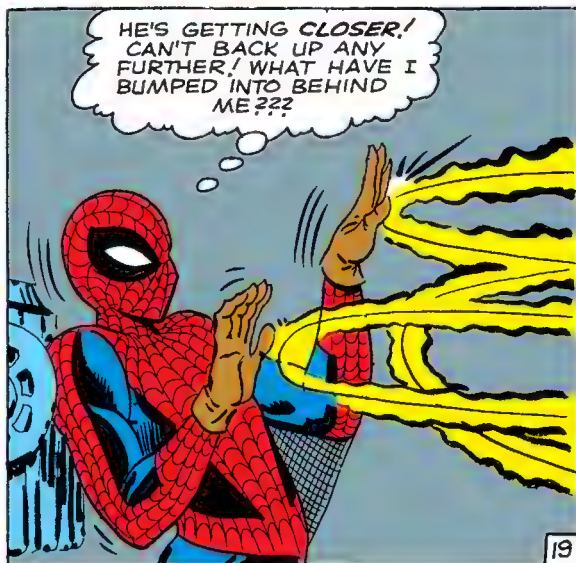


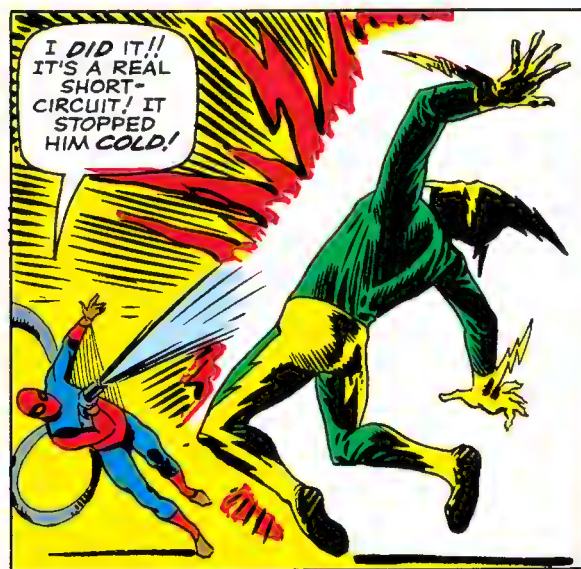
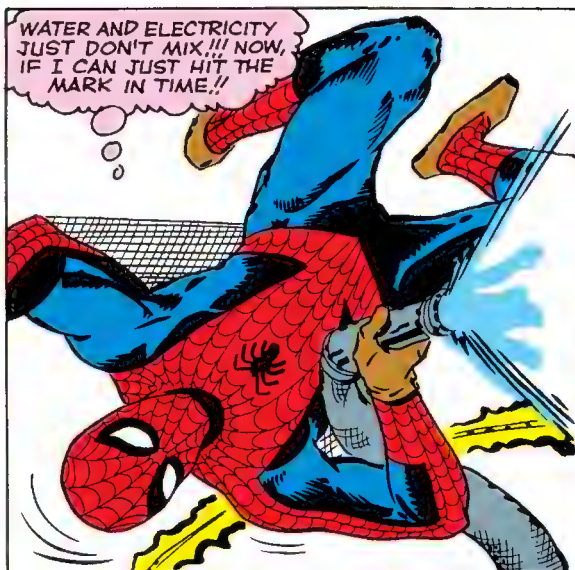
THEN, REACHING THE TOP OF THE STAIRWAY, SPIDER-MAN TURNS, AND...

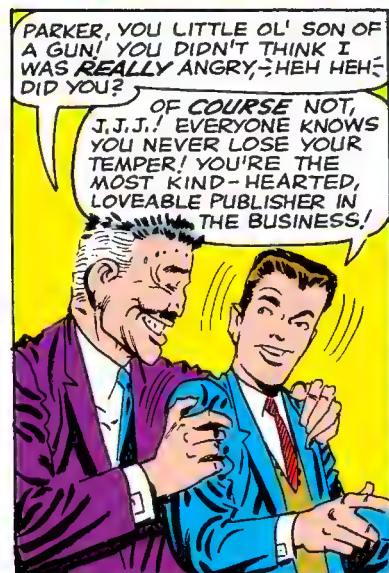
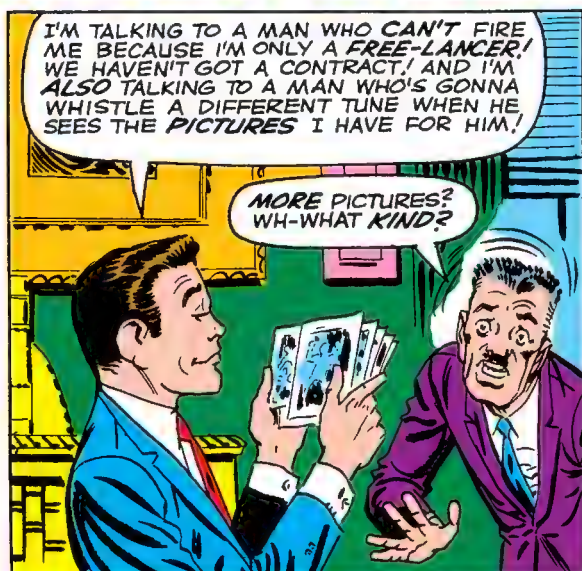
HEY! DIDN'T ANY-ONE EVER TEACH YOU NOT TO POINT!?? 'SPECIALLY WITH A GUN IN YOUR MITT!

WHAP!









AND, THE INSTANT PETER PARKER WALKS OUT OF HIS OFFICE...

STOP THE PRESSES!! PREPARE TO REPRINT PAGE ONE!! SEND ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS IN HERE ON THE DOUBLE!

WE'RE GOING TO PUT OUT AN EXTRA!!

SO--YOU DIDN'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO ME! YOU WENT TO THE HOUSE OF DETENTION TO TAKE PICTURES AFTER ALL!

AW, DON'T BE ANGRY, BETTY! IT'S MY JOB!

LOOK, BETTY--I LIKE YOU BETTER THAN ANY GIRL I'VE EVER KNOWN! I WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO HURT YOU! BUT YOU CAN'T STOP ME FROM DOING WHAT I HAVE TO!

PETER, I NEVER TOLD YOU WHY I LEFT HIGH SCHOOL LAST YEAR AND TOOK A JOB! I NEVER TOLD YOU ABOUT SOMEONE I ONCE KNEW WHO--WHO REMINDED ME OF YOU! BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE HURT AGAIN!

OKAY, BETTY! I GET THE MESSAGE! SO I'M NOT MR. PERFECT! SORRY TO HAVE BOTHERED YOU!

NO! PETER-- WAIT! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!

MINUTES LATER...

THE DOCTOR SAID I CAN GO HOME IN A FEW DAYS, PETER DEAR! BUT WHERE IS THAT NICE BETTY BRANT? SHE'S SUCH A SWEET GIRL!

HUH? OH, HER-- SHE WAS KIND OF BUSY TODAY! ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU HER REGARDS!

FATE CAN SURE HAND A GUY SOME HARD KNOCKS!

I GOT MORE OF A SHOCK OUT OF BETTY FLARING UP, THAN I DID OUT OF ELECTRO! BUT I DIDN'T MEAN TO WALK OUT ON HER! WHAT GOT INTO ME?

I'LL HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO HER! IF SHE EVER GOT MAD AT ME, I COULDN'T TAKE IT! NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH I LIKE HER-- NEED HER-- HUH-- WHO'S THAT?

PETER! WAIT--I-I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I SAID! PLEASE DON'T BE ANGRY!

AND SO, TWO THOUGHTFUL, SLIGHTLY CONFUSED YOUNG PEOPLE WALK OFF INTO THE DUSK... EACH GROPING FOR THE RIGHT WORDS TO SAY... EACH FEELING THE FIRST PANGS OF THAT EMOTION WE CALL-- LOVE!

NEXT ISSUE! MORE FASCINATING DETAILS ABOUT THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF THE WORLD'S MOST AMAZING TEEN-AGER-- SPIDER-MAN-- THE SUPER-HERO WHO COULD BE-- YOU!



SPIDER'S WEB

Please address
your letters to:
THE SPIDER'S WEB
Third Floor
655 Madison Ave.
New York 21, N. Y.

Dear Stan and Steve.

Only the team of Lee and Ditko could turn out a masterpiece like the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #5. What a terrific issue! The art was spectacular and I hope to see future issues as good as #5! As for my comparison of the Spider-Man to other Marvel characters, he is the best next to the Fantastic Four. In the future I would like to see Spider-Man tangle with the Incredible Hulk. I think the new comic THE AVENGERS is swell. With such feats as the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and the AVENGERS, I turn to Marvel Comics ahead of the others! Another of my opinions is that SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS is not worth publishing. You say that the MARVEL COMICS GROUP ushers in the MARVEL AGE OF COMICS — well, you can usher Sgt. Fury and his sloppy associates right out the door, but otherwise, keep up the good work!

David Buset
177 Ivy Drive
Oronda, Calif.

Steve is laughing — he doesn't draw SGT. FURY! But look at poor ol' Stan over there in the corner, weeping! As for the Commandos being sloppy, Dave — there aren't too many good tailor shops in fox-holes! Anyway, we're glad you like SPIDER-MAN, fella!

Dear Stan and Steve.

This morning I walked two miles for SPIDER-MAN #5, and it was well worth it! (The comic, not the walk!) Only one thing bugs me — why do you always put exclamation marks after whatever your characters say? (except for questions)

Gordon Flagg, Jr.
1906 Clairmont Terr.
Atlanta, Ga.

There's a reason for the exclamation marks, Gordon . . . When ordinary periods are used between sentences, they sometimes do not reproduce clearly when the mag is printed and the sentences seem to run together. But, exclamation marks show up much better, thus eliminating the possibility of any confusion.

Dear Stan and Steve.

Since your themes are crimefighters I think that Spider-Man should be recognized for the good he is trying to do by his fellow characters, or by an intimate group of his friends who believe in him and are convinced of his worth. Then he wouldn't have to stand alone as is the case of so many seemingly bad teenagers today.

Lee Snowden
727 So. 56th St.
Phila. 43, Pa.

We're not quite sure what you mean, Lee, but we love the way you said it!

Dear Stan and Steve.

There's one question which has been bugging me ever since I read SPIDER-MAN #6. On page 6 panel 3 the picture has ol' Doc Doom bouncing our boy something fierce. Now where did he get that kind of strength?? — Also, since I'm sending this letter I'll ask another question. On page 13 panel 6 Spider-Man has just slithered down through the air vent and is hanging upside-down when he

shoots out his spider symbol which comes out rightside up instead of upside-down since he was upside-down and not rightside up . . . how come??!

Don Powers
2208 Harcourt Drive
Cleveland Heights, Ohio

How come? Because we made a big, fat, bonehead mistake . . . THAT'S how come! As for Doc Doom giving Spidey his lumps, Don — the Doc has always been a mighty foe! If you don't believe it, ask Mr. Fantastic!

Dear Stan and Steve.

Like it said on the cover of SPIDER-MAN #5—"It had to happen!" Spider-Man was just bound to battle Doc Doom sometime. As most readers will agree, Steve Ditko usually does a pretty bad job on the Fantastic Four whenever he draws them. Therefore, you'd think he'd do just as bad a job on Doctor Doom, the FF's arch-foe. Not so! Ditko did an admirable job on the ol' Doc. It's a funny thing about Steve's art—everybody likes the weird and mysterious style he gives Spider-Man, but if he were to illustrate the FF it'd undoubtedly be a flop; same thing if Kirby illustrated Spider-Man!

John Page
5933 Elkport
Lakewood, Calif.

One thing WE always say about Steverino's art, Johnny . . . It's so far out, that it's in!

Dear Stan and Steve.

Your Spider-Man vs. Torch stories are great and the sooner you throw Iceman in them, the sooner the fun will really begin. Ditko's work—at first—I didn't like, but now anyone who sees his work on Spider-Man 12 times a year and still doesn't like it has got to be as nutty as a fruit-cake! Steve boy, if I could get to New York, I'd personally tell you how sorry I am about calling your work "the worst of Marvel's". It seems to me that I wasn't in the mood to think straight, or perhaps, I must have been studying my five minute talk on comics that I said in front of Salem High School—and won third prize in doing so! When it comes to drawing Spider-Man in an utterly fantastic way, everyone takes a back seat to you—even Mr. Kirby! While he did a very good job on Spider-Man in the STRANGE TALES ANNUAL, I missed your touch. You are to Spider-Man as Kirby is to Sgt. Fury. If possible, Spider-Man should become a member of some team—he's the only super-hero that you publish regularly that doesn't have a partner or partners—so how about it?

Michael Fallis
P.O. Box 663
Salem, Mass.

We imagine if the Human Torch were asked, Mike, he'd say: "Sure, Spider-Man should be a member of a team — like Laurel and Hardy, or the Three Stooges!"

Dear Stan and Steve.

I'm writing on SPIDER-MAN #5. My general opinion about it is great! There could have been a few things done differently to make it even better, though. Steve's drawing of the FF and Doc Doom was . . . well . . . shall we say . . .

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not too good? (Shall we say lousy?) I think it was because he isn't used to drawing them, like Kirby is. I think it better that Peter's Aunt May didn't find out about his alter-ego, but I think Steve Perrin's idea about a feminine ally, but not necessarily J.J.J.'s daughter, is good. I also think (boy, I am doing a lot of thinking) David Colman's idea about a Spider-Man Fan Club is a gem. Spider-Man should meet the FF and clear his name—I don't want another Hulk, so to speak. How about a Spider-Man T.V. show? If the show was half as good as the mag it would have no trouble at all getting a sponsor aside from being a smash hit. On page 21, panel 1, Steve drew Sue Storm's hair all wrong—she hasn't worn it like that for some time now! That's about all for now, except keep up the good work and keep putting them out as good as #5 was!

Brady Flowers
10 E. Washington Ave.
Le Center, Minn.

WE'RE willing to have a SPIDER-MAN T.V. show, Brady — but the T.V. industry hasn't yet started breaking down our door to beg for permission! In fact, over at the networks, they probably think SPIDER-MAN is a guy who hunts spiders!

Dear Stan and Steve.

When I first read SPIDER-MAN (issue #3) he didn't seem to be as good as your other super-heroes, but I figured anything with MARVEL scrawled on it had to turn out great. After I read SPIDER-MAN #4 (about 20 times) I fell in love with him. But after I read #5 you could have hauled me away and I wouldn't have cared—I was so overwhelmed. For plot and action it just can't be beaten. I have only one complaint—it is about Ditko's art work. He would be a great artist if he could only learn to draw. All of his characters have square heads and bodies. The only decent looking one is the costumed Spider-Man. Even though Ditko's work isn't the best I've seen, I still think your mag is the greatest.

David Catena
2601 Cambria Ave.
Windber, Pa.

Y'know something? There may not be another issue of SPIDER-MAN! We won't have time to produce it — we'll be too busy burning all these letter pages before Steve can read them! Anyway, Dave, what's wrong with a square head and body? You should see OURS!

Dear Stan and Steve.

A couple of months ago I went to the drugstore with no intention of buying a comic book. As I strolled by the comic rack my eyes latched onto something different—SPIDER-MAN natch! As soon as I bought it I read the adventure-filled book that exploded with excitement. It was new and completely different with the most awesome villains I have ever witnessed. Please don't team up Spider-Man with anyone! He's great as he is! Steve Ditko's art is great, especially the scenes where he pictures our hero leaping or swinging from building to building. I hope you won't have Spider-Man hanging onto one expression like "Holy Hannah!". I have just read issue #5 and thought it was equally tremendous. I think a nationwide fan club would be great as suggested by David Coleman. I cannot find anything wrong with this magazine—it's simply stupendous. Please keep up the good work!

Tommy Key
303 Westover Dr.
Birmingham 9, Ala.

HOLY HANNAH! Are we glad to see your letter, Tommy! Steve was just about to send away for a mail-order course in drawing! Anyway, as far as teaming Spidey up with anyone is concerned, we've no plans to do so at present — and our mail is pretty evenly divided about it! Some fans say we HAVE TO team him up — and others say we shouldn't DARE do it! So we'll stand pat for the present!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION:

- Well, the suspense is killing us! It's time to send this ish to the printers, and SPIDER-MAN #7 hasn't gone on sale yet, so we STILL haven't received any letters from you telling how you feel about our dropping the letters page! But, the tally will be in by NEXT ish and we'll give you the straight scoop at that time!
- So, let's see now — we've got an announcements section, so we ought to find something to announce in it! One thing we should mention is the difficulty some of you fans say you're having in finding our mags. We've received many letters telling us that some stores and newsstands don't carry SPIDER-MAN and other Marvel mags — or, that they're sold out by the time you get to the stands — or some such thing. Unfortunately, it is almost impossible for us to control the distribution of our mags at the dealer level. We make sure our issues get to each city, but after that it's up to the individual wholesalers to deliver them to each store. And, sometimes, the storekeeper himself doesn't bother displaying all the mags he receives. The best thing you can do is keep ASKING your dealer for the mags you want. Tell him to reserve your copy each month. If he hears it enough, who knows? He might even realize he's got some best-sellers right under his nose that he didn't even know about!
- No sense our mentioning the features which will appear in the other Marvel mags this month, because they're listed in the Special Announcements Section of FANTASTIC FOUR #23, also on sale at this time, and most of you SPIDER-MAN readers also read the FF. But, let's see what ISN'T mentioned in the FF. . . .
- JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY has a featurette about The Boyhood of Thor which we think you might like. It shows Thor and Loki as youngsters — and y'know something? Loki hasn't improved a bit with age!
- Ish #3 of X-MEN, now on sale, is the first issue which really plays up their various personalities! It'll show you that The Beast ISN'T really like The Thing, as many readers have implied. Lots of fans have asked to see SPIDER-MAN together with the X-MEN — what do YOU think?
- Have you been following our The Wasp Tells a Tale feature in TALES TO ASTONISH? This ish (#52) has a cutie called Not What They Seem — but the best cutie of all, natch, is The Wasp herself!
- The Watcher is back in TALES OF SUSPENSE with a nifty called Journey's End. We're getting real fond of The Watcher! Some day we hope we can find a way to feature him a bit more than we're doing at present! Any ideas?
- Oops! We almost forgot! The current ish of FANTASTIC FOUR (#23) brings back Doctor Doom, aided and abetted by a team of mighty unusual flunkies! Also, it shows the FF on the verge of splitting up and electing themselves a new leader! It's written by Stan, drawn by Jack Kirby, and produced by Marvel! What more can we say?
- Smiling Stevey Ditko doesn't want us to tell you what the next SPIDER-MAN will be about! He thinks you'll get more of a kick out of it if you're surprised. (If you ask US, he and Stan just haven't WRITTEN it yet!) Anyway, it's not too long to wait . . . and so, till we meet again, here's hoping you continue to find as much enjoyment in our mags as we find in your wonderful, loyal support!

ÜBERSOLDIER



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